SEVEN STEPS TO BETTER HIBISCUS

1. Select a bushy, well-shaped plant from a reliable nurseryman..

2. Choose a well-drained location with at least 50% sunlight. On low ground elevate your beds so water will not stand around plants. Remember - - Hibiscus need watering regularly, but do not like "wet feet."

3. Fertilize often beginning about the middle of March using 6-6-6 with minor elements, and at least 25% organic. Follow every four weeks with a 4-6-8 with minor elements, and at least 25% organic (Citrus Special) until September. Use a 2-12-12 formula in September to harden plants off for winter. Check soil pH periodically; Hibiscus do better if pH range of soil is between 6.5 and 7.0.

4. Examine plants often for insects - aphids are particularly bad in spring, and worms in summer. Spray material containing Nicotine Sulphate is an effective control of aphids. Arsenate of Lead is an effective control for worms. For other problems consult your nurseryman for best controls.

   Never exceed manufacturer's recommended dilutions with any materials.

   (Note: Malathion often defoliates plants and is also toxic. It also can be used only within certain temperature ranges.)

5. Mulch plants to conserve moisture and control weeds. Keep mulch material away from the trunk as this may cause fungus.

6. Remember - Hibiscus may need winter protection from frost and cold winds, especially while they are small. Excellent results have been obtained

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - June 26th - 28th

SEVEN (Cont'd)

from severe-freezes by banking plants, using the following methods:

a. Tie limbs of plant loosely into a column.
b. A mixture of wood shavings or oak leaves and soil, or soil alone makes a good banking material, but be sure to incorporate chlordane dust with the mulch to keep insects out.
b. Bank may be pulled down during periods of warm weather (limbs may be left tied until spring) but when replacing mulch be sure to use chlordane dust again in the mixture.

7. Join the American Hibiscus Society for a mutual exchange of pleasures and problems of those who grow and love Hibiscus. A post card to Mr. James E. Monroe, Box 98, Eagle Lake, Florida will bring you membership information.

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